Food bill of Indian Hockey Team

768. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food bills, amounting to over rupees seven lakhs, of Indian Hockey Team were paid by an NRI in Australia during April-May, 2008;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the amount has still not been reimbursed to the NRI; and

(d) the reasons for this lapse and whether any accountability has been fixed on any person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M. S. GILL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a communication from Shri H.S. Chouhan, Royal India Restaurant regarding the non payment of catering bills by Indian ' Hockey Team which visited Perth and Darwin, Australia to play four nations tournament in April/May, 2008. The total bill is stated to be Australian $18,816.00.

(d) Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), the Government provides financial assistance to NSFs to, *inter alia,* participate in international events, which includes the cost of boarding. The federation concerned is required to submit the audited accounts for the settlement of accounts. However, in the instant case, since the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) under whose aegis the Indian team visited Australia is under suspension, *Ad-hoc* Committee would resolve the matter.

Financial assistance to sports persons

769. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance is being provided to sports persons who compete at international events;

(b) if so, the details of the amount allocated for each sports discipline in the country for the last three years;

(c) whether the allocated funds have been regularly disbursed to the sports persons in full; and

(d) if so, the details of the disbursements of the allocated funds to each section of sports, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M. S. GILL): (a) to (d) The Government provides financial assistance to the National Sports — Federation (NSF) concerned for the participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international events. Sports discipline-wise allocation of funds to NSFs during the last three years is given in Statement.